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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

R. P. Lamont, Secretary

BUREAU OF MINES

Scott Turner, Director



GOLD, SILVER, COPPER, LEAD AND ZINC IN COLORADO IN 1927

MINE REPORT

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silver, 313 pounds of copper, and 52,238 pounds of lead, with a total gross calculated value of \$6,365 as compared with \$14,253 in 1926. Lead-gold-silver smelting ore was shipped from the Brighton, Crazy Girl, Neglected, and New Era; gold ore was shipped from the Donaldson-Wheatland and Puckett to the Golden Cycle mill. At the New Era mine retimbering, cleaning out cave-ins, and relaying track and air lines was begun in February, 1927. The mill was repaired and was operated during June and to July 15 on a test run. The ore is crushed to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch; it then goes to rolls and to jigs; tailings from jigs go to regrind and to tables. The concentrates produced were lead-gold-silver. Development work at the New Era totaled 225 feet of drifts; at the Crazy Girl, 200 feet of shaft sinking and 3,000 feet of drifts; and at the Neglected, 100 feet of drifts. The Freeland mine and mill were idle.

CONEJOS COUNTY

Platoro district (Ute, Decatur).—Assessment work was continued in the Platoro district, a producer from 1882 to 1906.

CUSTER COUNTY

Hardscrabble district (Westcliffe, Silver Cliff).—Several small lots of highly siliceous silver ore were shipped in 1927 from Westcliffe, from the Black Friday, Maxine Elliott, and S. A. K. groups. The new shaft on the Passiflora mine was continued to 280 feet and drifts run, but no ore was shipped.

Oak Creek district (Ilse).—At the Terrible mine at Ilse, 23 miles from Florence, development work amounted to 2,587 feet in 1927. The ore, a low-grade lead ore containing cerussite without gold, silver, or other metals, was concentrated as theretofore by Wilfley tables and Harz jigs. The high-grade lead concentrate produced was as usual sent to the Eagle-Picher Lead Co., at Joplin, Mo.

DOLORES COUNTY

The total gross calculated value of the mine production of metals in Dolores County in 1927 (all from Rico) was \$1,432,554 as compared with \$990,281 in 1926, \$353,563 in 1925, and \$24,220 in 1924.

With the exception of lead-silver smelting ore from the Pigeon, Shamrock, and Union Carbonate mines, all the ore mined was complex lead-zinc-copper-silver-gold-iron sulphide milling ore, which was treated at the International custom selective flotation plant at Rico. This 225-ton plant began operations October 1, 1926, and operated for nine months in 1927.

The milling ore came from various properties under various ownerships and various options and leases. The largest production was from the Rico-Argentine, followed by the Falcon Lead Mining Co., the combined output of the Rico Mining & Reduction Co. and its successor, the St. Louis Smelting & Refining Co., the Pelleyre Mining & Milling Co. (subsidiary of the International Smelting Co.), and the Rico Enterprise Mining Co.

The Rico Argentine Mining Co. mined its ore from the Black Hawk group, through the Log Cabin, Argentine, and Blaine adits. This company declared a dividend of \$24,000, or \$0.03 per share, on January 1, 1928. The property was in litigation for six years prior

to 1925, but a settlement was reached in December, 1924, and mining operations began in January, 1925. Shipments of lead-zinc ore to Utah began in August, 1925. The Falcon Lead Mining Co. mined its ore from the Nigger Baby Hill (or Yellow Jacket) group, upon which 878 feet of raises, 1,788 feet of drifts, and 1,287 feet of crosscuts were driven in 1927. The Rico Mining & Reduction Co. operated the Lillie D., Silver Swan, Maggie group, Iron group, and Argentine group until May 1, 1927, when all its holdings, assets, and liabilities were transferred to the St. Louis Smelting & Refining Co. The Pelleyre Mining & Milling Co. mined its ore from the Shamrock claim. The Rico Enterprise Mining Co. mined its ore from the Pro Patria claim, upon which 190 feet of raises, 319 feet of drifts, and 425 feet of crosscuts were driven in 1927. The former Rico Wellington Mining Co. was operated by the Rico Mining & Reduction Co. and later by the St. Louis Smelting & Refining Co. The Union Carbonate mine is opened by various adits; the old vertical shaft has caved; about 1,600 feet of drifts, raises, inclines, and crosscuts were driven in 1927; the ore is oxidized, and the minerals are cerussite, anglesite, galena, limonite, and a little minium, plumbojarosite, and smithsonite; sorting by hand and close selective mining were used. At the Badger group drifting and crosscutting amounting to about 150 feet were done under lease and option until the termination of such on March 31, 1927; the group is opened by the 700-foot Badger adit and by the 510-foot Hidden Treasure adit to the old Sunflower shaft, from which several hundred feet of drifting had previously been done. No ore was produced from the A. B. G. and C. V. G. groups, upon which the Rico Ventura Mining Co. drove 325 feet of drifts, 40 feet of raises, and a 100-foot shaft. The Buckhorn group is opened by an adit 1,500 feet long with several hundred feet of laterals; parts of the tunnel were retimbered and 200 feet of new drifting was done; this property was once opened by the Sawyer shaft, said to be 236 feet deep, now caved and inaccessible.

The International Smelting Co.'s Rico mill, installed in 1926 in the old Pro Patria mill building (with additions), began operations in October, 1926. Ore is brought to the mill by team and truck. Crushing is done by an 18 by 24 inch Blake crusher, by 42 by 16 inch Traylor rolls, and by an 8-foot by 36-inch ball mill. Other equipment includes one 10-foot Dorr drag classifier, two Minerals Separation (14 cells each) flotation machines, one American 6-leaf filter, and two 25 by 9 by 11 redwood thickening tanks. The mill was idle in June, July, and August, owing to low market prices for lead and zinc and pending the making of new contracts.

Dunton district.—At the Emma mine at Dunton retimbering was done and flotation cells were added to the 15-stamp mill, but no ore was treated in 1927. At the Smuggler-Almont mine 232 feet of drifts and 55 feet of crosscuts were driven; the 20-stamp concentrating mill on this property has been idle for 15 years.

DOUGLAS COUNTY

Newlin Gulch district (Parker).—Pipes were laid for pumping water from the stream bed of Newlin Gulch to the west bench of the gulch; there pits and trenches were dug in the nearly flat-lying Dawson arkose beds where the Castle Rock conglomerate has been eroded. A little gold was recovered from pannings and small sluicing